United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Canadian sergeant killed and corporal injured after truck hits mine in UNPROFOR sector west of Croatia; brings to 11 total number of deaths in Yugoslavia.

+ United Nations Guard Lars Hjelmquist wounded while patrolling with two other Guards south of Sulaimaniya, Iraq.

+ Economic and Social Council holds meeting to consider report of the Commission on Human Rights on Yugoslavia.

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A United Nations Spokeswoman reported today that a Canadian truck this morning hit a mine in the UNPROFOR sector west of Croatia. A Canadian sergeant was killed and a Canadian corporal was injured by shrapnel. The death of the Canadian sergeant brings to 11 the total number of fatal casualties suffered by the personnel of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Yugoslavia.

The Spokeswoman further reported that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had decided to suspend humanitarian flights due to the security situation at Sarajevo airport. However, as far as UNPROFOR was concerned, the airport was still open. Two UNPROFOR flights were expected to land tomorrow, including one carrying General Nambiar, UNPROFOR's Chief Commander.

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A United Nations Guard, Lars Hjelmquist of Sweden was shot and wounded yesterday by two bullets while patrolling by land vehicle with two other Guards about 100 kilometres south of Sulaimaniya, a United Nations spokeswoman said today.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Mr. Hjelmquist was taken to a local hospital and later transported by military helicopter to Baghdad. Following medical examination, he was transported by air via Kuwait to Lund, Sweden. Before his departure for Sweden, Mr. Hjelmquist was observed to be "fully conscious and well looking."

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The Economic and Social Council met this morning to consider the report of the Commission on Human Rights, which held its first ever special session in Geneva last week to address the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia. The 53-member Commission, the United Nations' principal human rights entity, is a subsidiary body of the Council and reports directly to it.

The Council, resuming its substantive session, took up the Commission's recommendation that it endorse the resolution unanimously adopted on 14 August by the participants in the special session. By that text they condemned absolutely the concept and practice of "ethnic cleansing", demanded that the International Committee of the Red Cross be given immediate and continued access to all places of detention within the territory of the former Yugoslavia, and requested that the Commission's Chairman appoint a special rapporteur to investigate first-hand the human rights situation in that area, in particular within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It was announced shortly after the adoption of the resolution that Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the former Prime Minister of Poland, was appointed Special Rapporteur.

Annexed to the text of the report was a resolution approved by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its current session, which condemned the policy of "ethnic cleansing" and the massive displacement of people it was causing. It also demanded that those people be given the chance to return to their homes, that they receive reparation for the losses they have suffered, and those responsible be brought to justice as a matter of urgency.

The estimated cost of enacting the resolution, stated in another annex, is given as approximately $100,000, to be absorbed under the human rights section of the 1992-1993 budget.

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